

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02064 222113Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 SIL-01 FMC-02 /036 W
-----090142 230841Z /13-11
R 221812Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8601
INFO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2064

ARA/LA/MRSD/L O'GRADY PASS AFL-CIO MCLELLAN

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, CI
SUBJ: TRADE UNION RIGHTS: RENEWED GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON
MARITIME UNIONS

1. MINISTER OF LABOR OFFICIAL TOLD LABATT MARCH 20 THAT THE GOC PLANS TO APPOINT FOUR POLITICALLY LOYAL PORT WORKERS FROM ANTOFAGASTA AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION OF BAY EMPLOYEES (FEBACH). HE ADDED THAT THESE FOUR PERSONS WOULD THEN CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD. PRESIDENT OF FEBACH EDUARDO RIOS CONFIRMED THAT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD ALREADY ISSUED THE APPROPRIATE DECREES AND STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE FOUR GOC APPOINTEES AS THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE HIS OUSTER AND THIS WOULD MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF BOTH HIS UNION AND THE MARITIME CONFEDERATION (COMACH)

2. RIOS ASKED LABATT TO SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ANDY MC LELLAN AFL-CIO WASHINGTON, D.C. QUOTE: I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE MINISTER OF LABOR HAS ISSUED A RESOLUTION APPOINTING FOUR NEW LEADERS TO FEBACH, THE UNION OF WHICH I AM PRESIDENT. IN
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02064 222113Z

DOING THIS, HE REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE MY NAMING OF A LEADER TO REPLACE SAMUEL GALLARDO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISPOSITIONS OF DECREE LAW 198. THE NEW APPOINTMENTS OF THE MINISTRY ARE ILLEGAL AND MADE IN ORDER TO REMOVE ME AS PRESIDENT OF FEBACH AND COMACH. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INFORM TEDDY GLEASON OF THIS ACTION IN ORDER THAT HE WILL GIVE THE SOLIDARITY HE OFFERED

IN LOS ANGELES. WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY TEDDY ACTING WITH
MAXIMIM ENERGY CAN PREVENT THE OVERTHROW OF THE FREE
TRADE MOVEMENT. EUDARDO RIOS. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: LABATT BELIEVES THAT MCLELLAN SHOULD BE
INFORMED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE ACTION OF THE
GOVERNMENT IS ADDITIONALLY DISTASTEFUL BECAUSE ONE OF THE
GOVERNMENT MEN BEING APPOINTED TO THE FEDERATION BOARD
OF DIRECTORS WAS APPOINTED A FEW MONTHS AGO BY THE
MILITARY GOVERNOR TO THE ANTOFAGASTA LOCAL, WHILE THE
OTHER THREE HAVE NEVER HELD ANY UNION POSITION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA02064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780127-1167
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780334/aaaabczu.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d451fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3231760
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE UNION RIGHTS: RENEWED GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON MARITIME UNIONS
TAGS: ELAB, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d451fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014